

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, please amend the title as follows:

~~PROCESS AND PLANT~~ PRECONVERTER FOR METHANOL SYNTHESIS

On page 1, after the title of the invention, please add the following new paragraph:

--This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/158,752, filed May 30, 2002--

On page 1, before the paragraph beginning on line 2, please insert the heading

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --.

On page 6, before the paragraph beginning on line 14, please insert the heading

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --.

On page 13, before the paragraph beginning at line 1, please insert the heading

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --.

On page 13, before the paragraph beginning at line 11, please insert the heading

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION --.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 18, as follows:

-- Referring to Figure 1, the methanol reaction system of the present invention comprises a first reactor vessel 1 have a gas inlet 2 and through which in use synthesis gas at a temperature of 180°C to 220°C and a pressure of 20 bar to 200 bar enters. The gas is preferable evenly distributed within the upper area 3 of the vessel 1 by means of an inlet gas distributor 4.